

## Hyde Park Junior School – History and Geography

**Topic: World War Two**

**Year: 6**

**Strand: Human Geography and History**

**Enquiry Question: History: What impact did World War II have on people's lives?  
Geography: How did World War II influence the geography of Europe?**

### Overview

This unit of work covers both the History and Geography of World War Two. In Geography, we will look at the geography of Europe and how this impacted invasion as well as protected Britain. Later, we will look at how World War Two changed the map of Europe and how it is still changing. In History, we will explore the human impact of the war and focus particularly on Plymouth. We will discuss why Plymouth was a target during the war and how Plymouth has changed because of this. The role of women, evacuation and rationing will also be explored. The devastating impact of the Holocaust on the lives of Jewish people will be taught with sensitivity with plenty of time for discussion and reflection.

### The Role of Women

Before the war, most women stayed at home and didn't go out to work. Those who did work were paid less than men and were generally restricted to 'women's jobs', such as nursing or working as a shop assistant. However, when men were called up for **active service**, women were needed to do jobs such as making weapons, driving buses and trains or working in engineering or shipbuilding. Some joined the armed forces themselves.

After the war, many women lost their jobs. However, their experiences led them to campaign for equal working rights and pay so that they could carry on leading more independent lives.

### Evacuation

During World War II, over 3.5 million children, along with some of their teachers and helpers, mothers with very young children, pregnant women and people with disabilities, were evacuated from the cities to the countryside, where it was believed they would be safer from bombing. All evacuees had to take their gas mask, ration book and identity card. When they reached their destination, a billeting officer would arrange a host family for them.

Evacuation happened in waves, beginning on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1939. Other waves occurred at the start of the Battle of Britain and at the start of the Blitz.

### Key Vocabulary

<b>Allies</b>	The United Kingdom, France and Poland, later joined by other countries, including the USSR (Soviet Union), the United States of America and China.
<b>Axis</b>	The <b>Axis</b> Powers were originally Germany, Japan and Italy. Other countries joined them later.
<b>Nazi party</b>	A German political party with racist and anti-Jewish ideas, led by Adolf Hitler.
<b>atomic bomb</b>	A very high-energy bomb made of radioactive material.
<b>annex</b>	To take another country's land and make it part of your country.
<b>Czechoslovakia</b>	A European country. Now two countries: the Czech Republic and Slovakia.
<b>propaganda</b>	Information designed to promote a political idea or opinion.
<b>active service</b>	Taking part in a military operation as part of the armed forces.



**A ration book**

### Key Events

1939	1 <sup>st</sup> September	German troops invade Poland.
	3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Britain and France declare war on Germany.
1940	10 <sup>th</sup> May	The Battle of France begins.
	26 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Allied</b> forces are evacuated from Dunkirk in France.
	10 <sup>th</sup> July	The Battle of Britain begins.
1941	7 <sup>th</sup> September	The Blitz begins.
	22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Germany invades the USSR (Soviet Union).
	7 <sup>th</sup> December	Japan bombs Pearl Harbor in the US.
1943	16 <sup>th</sup> and 17 <sup>th</sup> May	The Dambusters bombing raid is carried out.
1944	6 <sup>th</sup> June	The D-Day landings.
1945	7 <sup>th</sup> May	Germany surrenders to the <b>Allies</b> .
	6 <sup>th</sup> and 9 <sup>th</sup> August	The US drops <b>atomic bombs</b> on two cities in Japan.

### How Did World War II Start?

The leader of Germany, Adolf Hitler, had plans to take over other countries. In March 1938, Germany invaded and **annexed** Austria, which made other countries worried. On 29<sup>th</sup> September 1938, British, French, German and Italian leaders signed a treaty called the Munich Agreement. This allowed Hitler to **annex** the Sudetenland (an area of **Czechoslovakia**) if he agreed not to invade anywhere else. However, in August 1939, Hitler broke the agreement and invaded the rest of **Czechoslovakia**, followed by Poland on 1<sup>st</sup> September. Britain, France and Poland had made a pact to support each other, so Britain and France declared war on Germany.

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Which of these countries were our allies during the 2 <sup>nd</sup> World War?	Start of unit:	End of unit:		Start of unit:	End of unit:
Germany			Why were children evacuated?		
France			What was rationing?		
Italy			What jobs did women take on during World War II?		
Poland			What was the 'Dig for Victory' campaign?		
USA					
Russia					

	Start of unit:	End of unit:
Why was Plymouth targeted during the war?		

	Start of unit:	End of unit:
Which countries were invaded by Nazi Germany? In what order?		

	Start of unit:	End of unit:
Explain the impact of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> World War on people's lives?		